



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2004

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer
610 N.W. Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 384-7452

AUSTIN MAN NETS 67 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR THREE CARJACKINGS

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 40-year-old Raul Badillo-Rangel was sentenced this morning in Austin by United States District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth to 67 years in federal prison for his role in three carjacking incidents.

On December 3, 2003, an Austin jury convicted Badillo-Rangel and his codefendant, 27-year-old Roberto Lopez-Urbina, on 3 counts of carjacking, 3 counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence (carjacking), one count of conspiracy, and one count of interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicles. On January 29, 2004, Judge Hudspeth sentenced Lopez Urbina to 855 months in federal prison.

"Today's sentence of 67 years in federal prison, without parole, clearly sends the message that criminals who commit violent crimes with firearms will be punished severely. Everyone agrees that the most dangerous offenders are those who use firearms to perpetrate crimes. Taking them off the streets and making our communities safer is what the Project Safe Neighborhoods program is all about. Today, Austin is safer with these two behind bars," **stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.**

The investigation revealed that Lopez-Urbina was the gunman in the carjackings acting under the direction of Badillo-Rangel. Lopez-Urbina would deliver the automobiles to Badillo-Rangel who would then switch the license plates, secure bogus "buyer's orders" for the vehicles and then drive the cars to Mexico. On two occasions, motor vehicles were taken by force at gunpoint and knife point from vehicle occupants in Austin and Pflugerville. On another occasion, Lopez-Urbina fired two shots as he attempted to carjack another vehicle in Williamson County.

This case was investigated by a task force composed of state and federal law enforcement agencies, including Texas DPS, Texas Rangers, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Williamson County Sheriff's Office, Austin Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Anti-Smuggling Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys Gerald Carruth and Michelle McElroy prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

The prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences.

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